



PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

June 2018 Volume 18, Issue 5

Bureau of Community Health Systems

Jeff Andersen, Secretary

Governor Jeff Colyer, M.D.

What's in this Issue

| | |
|--|--------|
| Articles..... | Page 1 |
| Accreditation | Page 4 |
| Preparedness..... | Page 4 |
| Funding Opportunities..... | Page 5 |
| Training and Conference Announcements..... | Page 6 |
| News & Resources..... | Page 7 |

Kansas Expands Health Services for Children

by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment



Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Secretary Jeff Andersen is pleased to announce the State of Kansas has received federal approval to strengthen access to mental health and substance use services for participants of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved KDHE's CHIP Parity State Plan Amendment, which requires that mental health and substance use disorder treatments be considered equally with medical and surgical benefits. Kansas is the third state in the country to receive approval for this amendment.

"This Parity Amendment ensures that mental health and substance use disorders are treated no differently than other medical disorders by Medicaid and larger insurance plans," said KDHE Chief Medical Officer Dr. Greg Lakin. "It provides protection to patients with these types of diagnoses, where, historically, they were often treated differently."

The amendment is part of the mental health regulations put into effect by CMS on Oct. 1, 2017. CHIP provides health care coverage for low-income children living in families with incomes that exceed Medicaid limits. Within CHIP, states are awarded yearly allotments. Kansas provides low-cost health insurance coverage to children who are under the age of 19, do not qualify for Medicaid, have family incomes under 232 percent of the federal poverty level and are not eligible for State employee health insurance and are not covered by private health insurance.

"KDHE worked quickly with CMS to get this amendment approved for CHIP recipients," said KDHE Medicaid Director Jon Hamdorf. "This is just one of our efforts to expand access to vital services for low-income Kansans."

Regional Public Health Meetings

*by Teri Caudle, RN, PHN, Local Public Health Program
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



The Regional Public Health Meetings are designed to connect local health departments with programs and best practices that will benefit the work you do within your communities. The meetings are designed to connect local health departments with programs and best practices that will benefit the work you do within your communities. The agenda for the third quarter meetings will include the following: *KDHE Listening Tour*, Kendra Baldrige, Director, Bureau of Community Health Systems (BCHS) and Cristi Cain, Director, Local Public Health Program; *2018 HEDIS 101: Improving Quality of Care*, Bonnie Rupke, Amerigroup Kansas; *Regional Health Equity Council*, *Heart Disease Disparity Report*, Kendra Baldrige, KDHE BCHS

Director. The meeting dates and locations for third quarter are listed below:

- Southeast Region, July 12, Chanute
- Northeast Region, July 26, Topeka
- South Central Region, Aug. 1, Hutchinson
- Southwest Region, Aug. 8, Garden City
- Northwest Region, Aug. 9, Oakley
- North Central Region, August 22, Beloit

Registration for the third quarter meetings on KS-TRAIN, Course ID# 1078296. If you have ideas for regional meeting topics or questions regarding the meetings, please contact Teri Caudle at teri.caudle@ks.gov.

Register for the 2018 KALHD Midyear Meeting - June 19-20

by the Kansas Association for Local Health Departments



The 2018 KALHD Midyear Meeting will be held on June 19-20, at the Hotel at Oldtown Conference Center, in Wichita. The meeting will include sessions on the Kansas Community Mental Health System, the opioid epidemic and Kansas efforts to address it and a panel highlighting public health interventions to address the social determinants of health. Attendees may also choose from a variety of breakout sessions including sessions focused on the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA); ESSENCE, a electronic surveillance system allowing LHDs to analyze and report emergency department data; and a session on implementing foundational public health services in rural Kansas that will present findings from a four-county group in East-Central Kansas. Additionally, there will be presentations on the results from the Kansas 2018 Aid-to-Local survey and the public health workforce assessment and Public Health 3.0. Register online at [KS-TRAIN](#), Course ID# 1077747. Additional information about the meeting, including accommodations and payment information is available in the [brochure](#).

Kansas Health Matters Needs Your Feedback

by Kansas Health Matters



The Kansas Health Matters partners invite you to participate in a survey about the Kansas Health Matters website. If you have used Kansas Health Matters in the past, your input is needed to better understand who uses the website, what aspects are most helpful and how it can be improved. Your responses to the questions will be kept confidential and will only be reported in the aggregate. The survey should take less than five minutes to complete. Complete the survey through the following link: https://survey.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_41vdtrPRUyvRfVj

Reducing the Risk from Radon: A Guide for Health Care Providers

by Mark Ungerer, Kansas Radon Program,

Kansas Department of Health and Environment



The Kansas Radon Program is encouraging physicians and other health care providers to talk to their patients about radon in an effort to educate Kansans about, and protect them from, elevated exposure to radon gas. Health care providers are encouraged to discuss the cancer risk posed by radon with their clients and recommend a radon test for their homes.

The Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) recently published a guide for health care providers to use when communicating with their patients about radon and radon risk. Please [view the guide](#) and share it with health care providers in your community.

Kansas Radon Program

A Message from the KanCare Ombudsman's Office

KanCare Ombudsman
☆ HERE TO ASSIST YOU ☆

1-855-643-8180

KanCare.Ombudsman@ks.gov

www.kancare.ks.gov/kancare-ombudsman-office

We are here to assist you with any Medicaid questions you have.

The KanCare Ombudsman's Office is looking for volunteers for our Wichita office. We take phone calls from our toll-free line and assist current Medicaid consumers and people who have questions about the Medicaid application process. We assist people who need help filling out an application if they call and make an appointment to come in. We are looking for volunteers who are available three hours a week to help Kansas Medicaid consumers, and in turn will gain valuable experience and networking opportunities.

Call us today at 316-978-3566, or visit our [website](http://www.kancare.ks.gov/kancare-ombudsman-office) (www.kancare.ks.gov/kancare-ombudsman-office).

Electronic Health Record Implementation Toolkit

by Aaron Davis, Director, Center for Public Health Initiatives



The Health Information Technology field is complex. Equally complex are the national guides and tools for reviewing, selecting and implementing an Electronic Health Record (EHR). Many of the tools in existence, while excellent resources, are unnecessarily complex for the needs of Kansas Local Health Departments (LHDs) (see note below). Because of this, it was determined that some of these tools could be simplified to help enhance the understanding of the fundamental issues surrounding EHR

implementation.

The Kansas Immunization Program funded a local effort to create a toolkit specifically for Kansas LHDs. The purpose of this toolkit is to provide an overview of important elements of EHR selection and implementation to help LHDs assess, plan and avoid known pitfalls. It is recommended that any LHD looking to implement an EHR proceed with an understanding that this toolkit does not cover all of the necessary details, but will provide a thoughtful step-by-step overview of the process. Further research should be conducted, and consultation with experts is still needed. An overview of this tool and the pilot that led to its creation will be presented at the Kansas Immunizations Conference June 12-14. Any questions about the tool can be sent to Aaron Davis at aaron.davis@wichita.edu. The tool can be found on the KDHE website: http://www.kdheks.gov/immunize/ehr_toolkit.htm

Kansas Tobacco Quitline Offers New Resources

*By Halee Stevens, Bureau of Health Promotion,
Kansas Department of Health and Environment*

The Kansas Tobacco Quitline now offers new resources to Kansans living with mental illness or substance use disorders. For qualified callers, added services include additional counseling calls to provide support, a team of dedicated Quit Coaches specially trained in the challenges of quitting smoking for persons with mental health conditions and a two-week supply of nicotine replacement therapy, such as the patch, gum or lozenges. The Kansas Tobacco Quitline is a free, 24/7 resources available to all Kansans that provides phone and web-based quitting support, such as counseling, educational materials, referrals to local resources and can be reached at 1-800-QUIT-NOW or KSQuit.org.

The advertisement has a yellow background with a sunburst pattern of white lines radiating from the bottom center. At the top, the text 'Brighter tomorrows begin with smoke-free today's' is written in a mix of orange and brown fonts. Below this, an orange rounded rectangle contains the text: 'Having a mental illness or addiction can make it harder to stop smoking. The Kansas Tobacco Quitline can help.' Further down, black text states: 'The Kansas Tobacco Quitline now offers additional benefits to people with qualifying mental illnesses or substance abuse conditions, including two weeks of FREE nicotine replacement therapy and seven calls with a trained Quit Coach.' Below that, orange text says: 'Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW for FREE help 24/7.' At the bottom left is the 'KanQuit!' logo with the phone number '1-800-QUIT-NOW (784-8669)' and the website 'KSquit.org'. At the bottom right is the 'Kansas Department of Health and Environment' logo, which includes the state seal and the motto 'AD ASTRA PER ASPERA'.

Accreditation Corner

Special Supplement to the Journal of Public Health Management & Practice Highlights Impact of Accreditation



As the number of nationally-accredited governmental public health departments increases, so too does the evidence base related to the impact of the Public Health Accreditation Board's national accreditation program on public health. With nearly 70 percent of the U.S. population now served by a nationally-accredited health department, the breadth of accreditation's impact is captured in a special supplement to the May/June 2018 edition of the *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*. Thanks in part to funding provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the online edition of the special supplement is being offered with free access—in advance of the print edition—on the Journal's

[website](#).

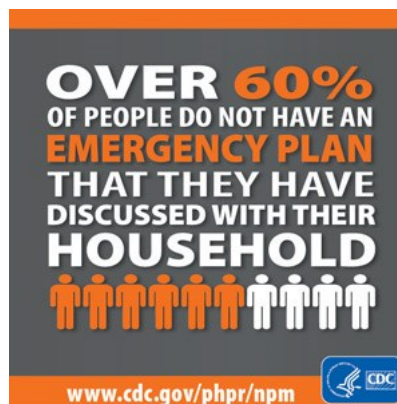
“From its founding more than 10 years ago, PHAB has been committed to using and promoting research,” said PHAB Director of Research and Evaluation Jessica Kronstadt, MPP. “This [supplement](#) marks an important contribution to the evidence base about the impact of accreditation. It also includes accounts directly from health departments about how their agencies have changed because of accreditation,” added Kronstadt.

The [supplement](#) is organized into four sections, each featuring scientific articles, commentaries and case studies that share the experiences of accredited health departments in the areas of quality improvement and performance management, partnerships, administration and management and future directions. Unlike past special issues that focused on the background and early evolution of accreditation, the 2018 issue includes analyses of several data sources to highlight differences between accredited and non-accredited health departments. For example, an analysis of data from 2010-2016 suggests accredited local health departments have made substantial progress in incorporating quality improvement in their operations, compared to local health departments that have not yet begun the formal accreditation process. In addition, findings from a survey of employees at local health departments reveal that those working in accredited health departments experienced higher job satisfaction levels.

Preparedness Corner

Got questions? Ask CDC.

[CDC-INFO](#) is the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) national contact center and publication fulfillment system. CDC-INFO offers live agents by phone and email to help you find the latest, reliable and science-based health information on more than 750 health and safety topics, including seasonal flu, Ebola, Zika, HIV/AIDS, immunizations and more. CDC-INFO is here for you in emergencies, using additional agents and extended hours as needed to support CDC's response.



Population Health and Preparedness Statewide Webinar



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) hosts a Population Health and Preparedness Statewide Webinar on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m. The next webinar will be June 26. To view minutes from the monthly calls, click the KDHE logo.

Funding Opportunities

Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Program – Deadline July 31



The United States Protection Agency (EPA) issued a notice of funding availability last week for the second round of loans under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program (WIFIA). The deadline for submitting a letter of interest is July 31. Letters of interest targeting reducing exposure to lead in drinking water, including lead service line replacement will be prioritized for funding. In the letter of interest, the prospective borrower must provide information demonstrating its project's eligibility, financial creditworthiness, engineering feasibility and alignment with EPA's policy priorities. If EPA selects the projects, then the prospective borrower will be invited to submit an application. For additional information about this opportunity, visit the [website](#).

Hearst Health Prize – Deadline August 9



The Hearst Health Prize, in partnership with the Jefferson College of Population Health, is now accepting applications for the 2019 Hearst Health Prize. The winner will receive a \$100,000 prize, with \$25,000 awarded to up to two finalists, in recognition of outstanding achievement in managing or improving population health. The goal of the Hearst Health Prize is to discover, support and showcase population health programs that have made a measurable difference. The results of successful programs are expressed in terms of actual improvements in health outcomes and/or health behaviors, not just financial measures, clinical process measures, or measures of participation. The population health program, project or initiative submitted for consideration must be currently active (not proposed or in the planning phase) and include outcomes or preliminary findings for at least one year. Additional information about this opportunity is [available online](#).

Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program



Through the Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial or business undertakings. In order to be eligible, the applicant must be a rural area, including cities, villages, townships and towns with no more than 20,000 residents.

Funds can be used to purchase, construct and / or improve essential community facilities, as well as purchase equipment and pay related project expenses. Examples of essential community facilities include:

- Health care facilities such as hospitals, medical clinics, dental clinics, nursing homes or assisted living facilities
- Public facilities such as town halls, courthouses, airport hangars or street improvements
- Community support services such as child care centers, community centers, fairgrounds or transitional housing
- Public safety services such as fire departments, police stations, prisons, police vehicles, fire trucks, public works vehicles or equipment
- Educational services such as museums, libraries or private schools
- Utility services such as telemedicine or distance learning equipment
- Local food systems such as community gardens, food pantries, community kitchens, food banks, food hubs or greenhouses

The kinds of funding available are low-interest direct loans, grants and a combination of the two. For more information about this opportunity, visit the [USDA website](#).

SAVE THE DATE

June 12-14, 2018

2018 Kansas Immunization Conference Vaccinating Across the Lifespan

Tony's Pizza Event Center | 800 The Midway, Salina, Kansas
(Formerly Salina Bicentennial Center)



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL (620) 235-4040

f KDHEnews @KDHE #Immunize

Training and Conference Announcements

Webinar - Rising Suicide Rates Across the US - June 12



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is hosting a webinar on the increasing rate of suicides in the country at 1 p.m., June 12. The presenters will include Deborah Stone, a behavioral scientist in CDC's Division of Violence Prevention; Jarrod Hindman, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Deputy Chief of the Violence and Injury Prevention-Mental Health Promotion Branch; and Neetha Mony, a program manager for the Statewide Suicide Prevention Plan at the Washington State Department of Health. Stone has worked with partners to advance the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention. Hindman is the co-chair of the Colorado of the National Collaborative for Suicide Prevention. Mony guides and tracks implementation of the Washington's Statewide Suicide Prevention Plan and connects partners and communities. For more information on this upcoming webinar, including how to join visit the CDC's Vital Signs Town Hall Teleconference [webpage](#). Additional information on steps to prevent increases in the nation's suicide rate is available in CDC's latest [Vital Signs report](#).

Webinar – The Current Understanding of Pre-Pregnancy Weight, Gestational Weight Gain & the Impacts on Maternal and Child Health – June 13

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) Health and Medicine Division will host a webinar on the current understanding regarding pre-pregnancy weight, gestational weight gain and the effects of gestational weight gain on maternal and child health. In 2009, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) and the National Research Council (NRC) published *Weight Gain During Pregnancy: Reexamining the Guidelines*, which established modified recommendations for gestational weight gain that incorporate pre-pregnancy BMI. The modified guidelines recommended that women with BMIs greater than or equal to 30 limit their weight gain during pregnancy to 11-20 pounds. However, exceeding these recommendations is common among U.S. women. This webinar will build on previous topics covered by the Roundtable and the Academies by focusing on updates since the 2009 NRC/IOM report. The webinar will: explore new evidence on trends and associated health outcomes; discuss promising interventions, including patient-centered counseling; and highlight limitations of the current evidence and research gaps. The webinar will be held at 11 a.m., on June 13. Register to attend [online](#).

Webinar – Tackling Big Challenges with a Full QI Culture Shift – June 19

How can an organization leverage the public health accreditation process to spark creativity, innovation and further staff involvement in performance improvement efforts? How does an organization move beyond aligning its performance management and quality improvement systems with accreditation standards and move toward a full culture shift? Join the Public Health Foundation from 2 to 3 p.m., on June 19, to hear how Springfield-Greene County Health Department, in Missouri, tackled these big challenges and revamped its Quality Council. Hear about its new performance management work, which takes a multifaceted and comprehensive approach to systematic quality improvement by integrating departmental performance management, health equity, strategic planning and workforce development efforts (among other concepts) into a top-down and bottom-up approach. This webinar is free and open to all. Please visit the [webinar webpage](#) to register and contact Vanessa Lamers at vlamers@phf.org with any questions.

KEYSummit2018 – June 19-20

The KEYSummit will be an exciting opportunity to learn and share about how to empower and lift up youth and young adults in Kansas, helping them to improve their lives and expand their vision of what is possible. The event will feature Erin Walsh of Mind Positive Parenting as the keynote speaker on Wednesday morning. Walsh is a co-author of "Why Do They Act That Way? A Survival Guide to the Adolescent Brain for You and Your Teen" and a renowned speaker on adolescent brain development. The event will be held from 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., on Wednesday, June 20. Other summit speakers and topics include: Jim Conway of [Search Institute](#) speaking on developmental relationships; Alexandra Eisler from [Healthy Teen Network](#) on ensuring youth-friendly access to care; a panel focused on resources moderated by Dr. Elaine Johannes; and a Youth Voice Panel featuring youth from the Reno County Communities That Care. All attendees will gain unique insights on how we can support healthy futures for youth and young adults, as well as hear directly from youth on how best to engage their voices. [Register online](#) for the event. The summit is free to attend, and special hotel rates are available at the Capitol Plaza Hotel. If you have any questions please reach out to Sara Gardner from the summit coordinating team at sgardner10@ku.edu.

News and Resources

Failure to Find Source of E. Coli Outbreak Highlights Vulnerabilities in Food Safety Regulation

Scientists searching for a toxic strain of E. coli that has raced across 25 states, sickening 121 people and killing one, have been able to identify the general source as the Yuma, Ariz., growing region. But as the outbreak enters its second month, they still cannot find the contamination itself—it could be lurking in the area's fields, water sources, harvesting equipment, processing plants or distribution centers. Federal officials predict that the outbreak, linked to romaine lettuce, will [continue for several weeks](#).

Raising Connor: A Boy at the Intersection of Autism and Mental Illness

[This is Connor](#), a puzzle his family and caregivers have worked long and hard to solve, a boy who lives at the intersection of autism and mental illness. It isn't so much a rare place—as many as half of autistic children suffer from mental health problems—but it can be a deeply baffling one.

It Save Lives. It Can Save Money. So Why Aren't We Spending More on Public Health?

Not only have many public health interventions in the United States been hugely successful, but they've also saved more money than they've cost.

And yet Americans spend relatively little money in that domain and far more on medical care that returns less value for its costs. Instead of continually complaining about how much is being spent on health care with little to show for it, maybe we should direct more of that money to public health. In this article, the authors discuss the returns on investment for different types of [public health interventions](#).

Carcinogens Found in Regular Cigarettes are in E-cigarettes

Teenagers who use e-cigarettes are ingesting many of the same carcinogens found in regular cigarettes, according to a study published recently in the medical journal *Pediatrics*. And those who use fruit-flavored e-cigs may be exposed to even more cancer-causing chemicals than those who use the tobacco-flavored ones. The study was the first to measure toxins directly in the saliva and urine of [teenage smokers](#).

Financially Challenged Seniors May Have an Increased Risk of Developing Dementia

Poverty later in life may be associated with an increased risk of dementia, [new research suggests](#). According to the researchers, many factors could be involved in the study's findings. For example, financial status may be a stand-in for a poorly-managed diet and unhealthy lifestyle, both of which are linked to increased risk for dementia. Access to good health care and [making healthy lifestyle decisions](#) may have a significant impact on dementia risk.

What is Syphilis? Stillbirths Linked to STI in California at Highest Level Since 1995

The [number of stillbirths](#) caused by syphilis in California has spiked to the highest level in more than two decades, as rates of sexually-transmitted illnesses (STIs) in the state reach a record high.

Job Postings

Geary County Health Department

- [Health Nurse I - RN](#)

Harvey County Health Department

- [Community Health Nurse - RN](#)

Marion County Health Department

- [Staff Nurse/Child Care Surveyor](#)

McPherson County Health Department

- [Receptionist/Clerk I](#)
- [Registered Nurse - Public Health](#)

Reno County Health Department

- [Health Educator](#)
- [Home Health Aide](#)
- [Public Health Nurse II](#)
- [Administrative Associate I - Medical Records](#)

Riley County Health Department

- [Child Care Surveyor I](#)

Sedgwick County Health Department

- [Fiscal Associate - Front Desk](#)
- [Senior Research Associate](#)
- [Nurse Coordinator - Immunizations](#)



Career opportunities at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment can be found [here](#).

Kansas Department of Health and Environment Program Newsletters

[2017 KDHE News Releases](#)
[Epi Updates Newsletter](#)
[Kansas Environmental News](#)
[Kansas Health Statistics Report](#)

[Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program](#)
[Newborn Screening Newsletter](#)
[Nutrition and WIC Update](#)
[Ready Reader](#)
[What's Happening Wednesday \(Immunization\)](#)

Public Health Connections Information

To receive the monthly E-Newsletter, email phc@kdheks.gov.
 Previous issues of Public Health Connections may be found at
http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/public_health_connections.htm.

Send your public health news to
 Katie Mahuron at katie.mahuron@ks.gov.